

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

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R 192343Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5225

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 2755

USIAC

FOR: IOP/M, IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

REF: USIA 10059 CIRCULAR

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL FROM MAY 17  
ISSUE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA POST ENTITLED  
"REASSERTION OF U.S. POWER." ABRIDGEMENT PERMISSIBLE.  
NO COPYRIGHT NOTICE REQUIRED BUT NORMAL CREDIT-LINE  
EXPECTED.

2. (BEGIN TEXT) THE RESOLUTE ACTION TAKEN BY THE FORD  
ADMINISTRATION IN RECOVERING THE MERCHANT SHIP MAYAGUEZ  
LATE WEDNESDAY AND RESCURING THE 40-MAN CREW FROM THE  
CAMBODIAN CAPTORS WAS THE ONLY RIGHT THING TO DO.

3. THE WHOLE EPISODE WAS SIMPLY A FARCE. THE NEW  
CAMBODIAN REGIME, WITHOUT ANY AIR FORCE OR NAVY TO SPEAK  
OF, HAD THE TEMERITY TO IGNORE THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION  
AND CHALLENGE THE STRONGEST SUPERPOWER IN THE WORLD\*  
IT SHOWED THAT NO NATION CAN COEXIST WITH ANY COMMUNIST  
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REGIME AND THAT THE COMMUNISTS RESPECT ONLY STRENGTH.

4. IN THE CASE OF THE MAYAGUEZ, THE CHALLENGE FLUNG AT THE UNITED STATES BY COMMITTING AN ACT OF PIRACY ON THE HIGH SEAS WAS TRULY PREPOSTEROUS. NO ONE COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT SUCH A WANTON VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW WOULD BE OPENLY COMMITTED BY THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED REGIME OF KHMER ROUGE.

5. THE UNITED STATES DEALT WITH THIS SITUATION CALMLY AND IN A MATTER-OF-FACT WAY. IT FIRST ORDERED ITS AIRCRAFT CARRIER CORAL SEA AND OTHER NAVAL UNITS TO PROCEED TO THE GULF OF THAILAND. THEN IT INVOKED THE HELP OF A THIRD COUNTRY TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE KHMER ROUGE REGIME TO RELEASE THE SHIP AND ITS CREW. AT THE SAME TIME, U.S. AIR FORCE PLANES WENT INTO ACTION AGAINST THE COMMUNIST ATTACKERS AND DESTROYED THREE CAMBODIAN NAVAL VESSELS. BOARDING OF THE MAYAGUEZ AND RESCUING OF ITS 40 CREW MEMBERS AND FIVE THAI FISHERMEN CAME WEDNESDAY EVENING, AND THIS FARCE WAS FINALLY CONCLUDED. U.S. MARINES SUFFERED SOME CASUALTIES WITH TWO MEN KILLED AND SOME OTHERS WOUNDED.

6. BOTH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AND NORTH VIETNAMESE DENOUNCED THIS EMINENTLY SUCCESSFUL OPERATION BY THE U.S. MARINES AS "AN ACT OF PIRACY." THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS REFUSED TO LIFT A FINGER TO HELP THE UNITED STATES AND WILFULLY IGNORED THE U.S. APPEAL. THEIR HOSTILE ATTITUDE SHOULD BE AN EYEOPENER FOR THE APPEASERS IN THE UNITED STATES. NOW THEY SHOULD REALIZE WHAT THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE REALLY AFTER -- THE DOWNFALL OF "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM\*"

7. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THROUGH THIS INCIDENT HOW FRIENDLY AND RELIABLE A PARTNER THEY HAVE IN ANOTHER ASIAN COUNTRY WHICH FORBADE THE UNITED STATES TO USE ITS BASES FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS.

8. THE RELEASE OF THE CAPTURED CREW PROVED THAT THE COMMUNISTS RESPECT ONLY STRENGTH. BY EXERCISING THE POWER VESTED IN HIM, PRESIDENT FORD HAS RESTORED U.S. PRESTIGE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. FOR A FEW WEEKS HIS ADMINISTRATION APPEARED TO BE SO WEAK AND CONFUSED THAT

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IT LOST ITS SENSE OF DIRECTION. ITS BEWILDERMENT WAS SUDDENLY DISPELLED WHEN IT ASSERTED ITS LEADERSHIP IN THIS CRISIS. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR BASING SUPPORTED THIS RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION.

9. IF PRESIDENT FORD CAN UTILIZE THIS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD THE UNITED STATES IN PURSUING POSITIVE POLICIES AGAINST THE COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS IN THE FUTURE, ALL FREE

NATIONS OF ASIA WILL CERTAINLY SUPPORT AMERICAN MOVES  
WITHOUT HESITATION. IT WILL ALSO DISPEL THE PRESENT  
ATMOSPHERE OF NEUTRALITY IN ASIA AND A NEW ASIAN SYSTEM  
OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY MAY BE EXPECTED TO EMERGE TO BENEFIT  
ALL ASIAN NATIONS AND THE WORLD AT LARGE. PRESIDENT FORD  
NOW SHOULD CERTAINLY CANCEL HIS PROJECTED VISIT TO THE  
CHINESE MAINLAND. (END TEXT)  
CLARKE

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